

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6
INCIDENT NO. 98-001
DATE: June 18, 1998 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Devils Lake Basin and eastern North Dakota flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Recent rainfall has caused a slight increase in the level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay. The lake level measured 1,444.56 feet on June 18, a 0.02-foot increase during the past 24 hours. The lake level has been fluctuating since last week, when heavy rainfall began. Previously, the lake level had been slowly dropping since reaching a high of 1,444.69 feet on May 29.

Stutsman County officials continue to receive reports of major damage to both county and township roads, primarily caused by extremely high water tables that have resulted in saturated subgrades. Overland flooding has caused culvert and road washouts, shoulder erosions and roadway inundation. Because of a mild winter and lack of snow cover, frost boil damages were abnormally severe, and resulted in damages to both gravel and asphalt roadway surfaces. Problems in western Stutsman County have been attributed to "non-flowable" water caused by a lack of a drainage basin. Instead, there are many closed basins in the area that continue to fill up every year, with no outlets for water to drain. As a result, this "non-flowable" water raises water tables and inundates roads. The Emergency Manager reports that inundation in the Crystal Springs area, west of Medina, has created inundation problems with the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad line that passes through the area.

Flooding problems in eastern North Dakota have been exacerbated by recent rainfall.

In Sargent County, rainfall in the area continues to inundate cropland, causing loss of yield and tillable acres. The Emergency Manager has received reports of water seepage in homes, which has been caused by high water tables and ground saturation. Township and county roads are soft and have been closed and flagged in flood-threatened areas. Motorists have been asked to travel at cautious speeds. The city of Cogswell remains under water restriction because of an over worked lift station and the area's high water.

An isolated rainstorm on June 15 dumped up to five inches in Valley City. The worst street flooding occurred in the Mercy Hospital area, where one street had water four feet deep. Most streets averaged two feet of inundation. The Barnes County Emergency Manager received reports of basement water seepage problems. Two homeowners reported sewer backup problems. Gravel erosion has occurred on roads because of the heavy runoff.

Also in Barnes County, a small tornado touched down during a June 10 storm two miles west of Oriska, but did not cause damage. Hail of varying sizes struck areas of the county, though most was pea-sized. However, near Oriska, vegetation was frozen under hail drifts. Officials for the North Dakota State Farm Service Office in Fargo estimate that 83,000 acres of cropland were affected by the storm. Percent of yield losses ranged from

20 percent to 80 percent for wheat, soybeans, corn, field peas, edible beans, sunflower and canola. The storm also damaged 200,000 acres of land, resulting in \$50,000 in damages. Five farm buildings sustained a total of \$10,000 in damages.

Heavy rains, wind and hail damage associated with the June 10th storm also caused problems in Sargent County. Two to three inches of rain severely flooded soybean and sunflower fields. Percent of yield loss for wheat, corn, soybeans, barley and sunflowers ranged from 20 to 40 percent, with some producers experiencing up to 80 percent in crop damages. In Ransom County, rainfall ranged from 0.25 to 3.25 inches. The Emergency Manager also received reports of hail in some areas.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross has established a service center at Forman City Hall for residents of a mobile home park that is experiencing problems with flood waters.

The Red Cross was prepared to provide temporary housing for a Ransom County family displaced by flooding. However, the family declined.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer received word from the White House on June 14 that President Clinton has approved his request for a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration for 13 counties, the Spirit Lake Tribe and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. The 13 counties included in the request are Barnes, Benson, Dickey, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Stutsman and Towner. The presidential declaration opens up federal funds available through the Public Assistance Program for the 13 counties and two Indian Reservations. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds will be available statewide. Federal Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation funds will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible damages. A joint federal/state/local Preliminary Damage Assessment, conducted June 2 to June 4, identified over \$4.5 million in public assistance damage.

Governor Schafer has appointed Major General Keith D. Bjerke, the North Dakota Adjutant General, as State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Governor's Authorized Representative, for the disaster. Harold Narum, Deputy Director of North Dakota Emergency Management, has been named the Deputy SCO and Deputy GAR. President Clinton has designated Lesli A. Rucker of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII Office as Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and Lou Ramirez, also of Region VIII, as the Deputy FCO.

State and federal disaster officials held an organizational meeting June 18 to discuss recovery work plans for FEMA-DR-1220-ND. Public Officials' Applicant Briefings will be held during the week of June 29 to July 2. Sites and times of the briefings will be announced as specific information becomes available.

FEMA staff assigned to North Dakota will work at the North Dakota National Guard's Fraine Barracks in Bismarck until Monday when the State/Federal Disaster Field Office opens at the Manhattan Building at 1022 East Divide Avenue in Bismarck.

City of Forman officials have obtained four travel trailers for residents of a Forman Trailer Park. These trailers, obtained from the National Guard through N.D. State Surplus, were located in North Dakota by FEMA as part of the 1997 spring flood recovery efforts. These trailers will be used to house individuals displaced by flooding.

In Stutsman County, crews for the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad have shored up a flood-threatened rail line in the Crystal Springs area. By using carloads of granite shipped from Minnesota and specialized equipment, the crews raised the track approximately 2.5 feet. The rail line was only closed for brief periods of time during efforts to elevate the track.

The city of St. Thomas in Pembina County issued an emergency declaration because of spring flooding.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., July 16, 1998, at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director